1	2	3	4
3.	Bihar	9057	10020
4.	Chhattisgarh	3123	7235
5.	Delhi	571	28058
6.	Gujarat	8970	6183
7.	Haryana	2653	8788
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2777	2324
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1691	6470
10.	Jharkhand	3091	9479
11.	Karnataka	9826	5725
12.	Kerala	5070	6575
13.	Madhya Pradesh	8323	7977
14.	Maharashtra	12853	8270
15.	North East	2934	4233
16.	Orissa	8162	4764
17.	Punjab	3911	6945
18.	Rajasthan	10318	6036
19.	Tamil Nadu	12115	5467
20.	Uttar Pradesh	17662	10377
21.	Uttarakhand	2714	3397
22.	West Bengal	9058	9518
	TOTAL	155035	7174

Post offices in Hilly areas

19. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to make post offices village oriented particularly in those located in Hilly States like Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme being formulated by Government to make post offices more useful for the people who are living in Hilly areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) The postal system throughout the country is

inherently village oriented. Out of a total number of 1,55,035 Post Offices (as on 31.03.2008), 1,39,173 are functioning in rural including hilly areas of the country. This implies that 89% of the post offices are operating from villages. As regards the State of Himachal Pradesh, there are 2658 post offices in rural/hilly areas against 119 post offices in urban areas.

(b) The conventional products like Money Orders, Registration, Savings Bank services etc. are already available in post offices functioning in hilly areas. For making the post offices more useful to the people living in rural/hilly areas, two new welfare schemes of the Government of India like National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) have already been implemented whereunder disbursal of the amount is done either through Money Orders or Post Office Savings Bank Accounts.

PCOs in Himachal Pradesh

20. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) circle-wise details of applications from handicapped persons for getting Public Call Offices (PCOs) in Himachal Pradesh received by Government during the last two years;

(b) circle-wise details of PCOs allotted to the handicapped applicants during the last two years;

(c) whether Government proposes to allot PCOs to all the eligible handicapped applicants of each circle; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) The circle-wise details of applications received from handicapped persons for getting PCOs and number of PCOs allotted by BSNL to handicapped persons during last two years are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. All pending cases as on 01.04.2009 will be provided by 30.09.2009 subject to technical feasibility and fulfillment of commercial conditions.

Statement

Circle-wise details of applications for PCOs received from handicapped persons and PCOs allotted during last two years i.e. 2007-08 *and* 2008-09

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	No. of applications received from handicapped persons for PCOs			No. of PCOs provided to handicapped persons		
		2007-08	2008-09	Total	2007-08	2008-09	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	0	2	2	0	2